

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Sociology  
Spring, 2010  
Class: Th 9:30-12:20

Harvey Goldman  
468 SSB  
Office Hrs:  
W 11:30-12:30  
F 2:15-3:15

SOCIOLOGY 202/POLITICAL SCIENCE 212

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY

Textbooks:

- Antonio Gramsci, Selections from the Prison Notebooks  
(International)
- Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish (Vintage)
- Michel Foucault, History of Sexuality, vol. 1 (Vintage)
- Pierre Bourdieu, Distinction (Harvard)
- Pierre Bourdieu, The Field of Cultural Production  
(Columbia)
- William H. Sewell, Jr., Logics of History: Social  
Theory and Social Transformation (Chicago)

This course is meant as an introduction to some of the central issues in the contemporary study of society and politics. It is based on the reading of some of the most important works of the last seventy years that have been built upon, and contributed to, the development of sociology and social theory. The topics that these works treat have become central to a wide range of social and political thought: intellectual and cultural production; critical theory, language, and the re-evaluation of classical social and political thought; normalization and social control; the body and power; practices of the self; social reproduction through education; stratification and culture. At the same time, this is, inevitably, a selective course with many gaps in traditional sociological theory, among them functionalism (Parsons, Merton, etc), sociology of knowledge (Mannheim), and micro-sociology and interaction (Goffman, Garfinkel, Cicourel, Blumer, etc).

Books have been ordered from the University Bookstore. All required books are also on reserve in SSH. Articles for which web links are not provided will be made available weekly for students to copy.

**Requirements:** Two 7-10 page papers: one on Foucault, due at the beginning of Week VII, and one on Bourdieu, due during exam week.

## Week

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. CRITICAL THEORY OF SOCIETY AND THE MEANINGS OF CULTURE

Max Horkheimer, "The Present Situation of Social Philosophy and the Tasks of an Institute for Social Research", from Between Philosophy and Social Science

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/horkheimer/1931/present-situation.htm>

Max Horkheimer, "Traditional and Critical Theory," from Critical Theory

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, "The Concept of Enlightenment" and "The Culture Industry," from Dialectic of Enlightenment

Adorno, "Culture Industry Reconsidered," from New German Critique 6 (Autumn 1975):12-19

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/487650.pdf>

Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," from Illuminations

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm>

### III. CULTURES, STRUCTURES, AND IDEOLOGIES

Gramsci, Selections from Prison Notebooks, 5-23, 52-61, 102-120, 125-90, 210-18, 227-38, 257-68, 275-76, 343-66, 407-10

Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," from Lenin and Philosophy

<http://www.marx2mao.com/Other/LPOE70ii.html#s5>

Habermas, "Technology and Science as Ideology," from Toward a Rational Society

**IV-V. KNOWLEDGE, POWER, AND SOCIAL CONTROL**

Foucault, Discipline and Punish, all

Foucault, "Two Lectures," from Power/Knowledge

Foucault, "Truth and Power," from Power/Knowledge

**VI. THE MICROPHYSICS OF POWER/KNOWLEDGE**

Foucault, History of Sexuality, volume 1, all

Foucault, "The Subject and Power," from Dreyfus and Rabinow, Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics

**VII-VIII. STRATIFICATION AND CULTURAL CAPITAL**

Bourdieu, "The Genesis of the Concepts of Habitus and Field," in Sociocriticism 2 (December 1985):11-24

Bourdieu, Distinction, pp. 1-256, 466-500

**IX. CULTURE AND INTELLECTUAL PRODUCTION**

Bourdieu, "Intellectual Field and Creative Project," in Social Science Information 8 (April, 1969): 89-119

<http://ssi.sagepub.com/content/vol8/issue2/>

Bourdieu, The Field of Cultural Production, pp. 29-73, 112-141, 176-91

**X. CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY, HISTORY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

William H. Sewell, Jr., Logics of History

SOCIOLOGY 202

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY

Alexander and Smith, "The Strong Program in Cultural  
Sociology,"

AND

Alexander, "Modern, Anti, Post, and Neo: How  
Intellectuals Explain 'Our Time',"

BOTH in:

Jeffrey Alexander, The Meanings of Social Life

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ucsd/docDetail.action?docID=1008>  
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